

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of monitoring multimedia stream exchange session initialization messages transmitted in packet mode via a monitoring server ~~(20, 22)~~ over a network ~~(18)~~ between a sender terminal ~~(10)~~ and one or more receiver terminals ~~(12)~~, characterized in that it comprises the following steps:

- estimating ~~(50)~~ a bit rate value for at least one initialization packet received by the monitoring server ~~(20, 22)~~;
- comparing ~~(52)~~ that value to a maximum authorized bit rate value; and
- authorizing ~~(40)~~ transmission of the initialization packet only if the bit rate value for that initialization packet does not exceed the maximum authorized bit rate value.

2. (Original) A method according to claim 1 of monitoring messages transmitted in packet mode, wherein a transmission channel associated with a specific maximum authorized bit rate value is defined for each pair comprising a sender terminal and a receiver terminal.

3. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1 of monitoring messages transmitted in packet mode, wherein estimating ~~(50)~~ the bit rate value for the initialization packet received by the monitoring server includes the following steps:

- storing the sizes of the latest initialization packets sent by the sender terminal ~~(10)~~ to the receiver terminal ~~(12)~~ and received by the monitoring server ~~(20, 22)~~ during a predetermined duration; and
- dividing the sum of the sizes of the stored initialization packets by the predetermined duration.

4. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1 of monitoring messages transmitted in packet mode, implemented by the monitoring server ~~(20, 22)~~, which also processes session initialization packets.

5. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 4 of monitoring messages, wherein the session initialization packets are forcibly routed to the monitoring server ~~(20, 22)~~ consisting of the first processor server through which said session initialization packets pass.

6. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 4 of monitoring messages, wherein the monitoring server ~~(20, 22)~~ consists of ~~any of the~~ a session initialization packet processor servers-server of the network, and routing rules are defined to ensure that the session initialization packets systematically pass in transit through ~~said the~~ processor server.

7. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1 of monitoring messages transmitted in packet mode, wherein the session initialization messages transmitted use the Session Initialization Protocol (SIP).

8. (Currently Amended) A method performed by a monitoring server (20, 22) for monitoring multimedia stream exchange session initialization messages transmitted in packet mode via a monitoring server over a network (18) between a sender terminal (10) and one or more receiver terminals (12), characterized in that it includes: terminals, the server receiving the packets from the network and transmitting the packets to the network, the method comprising:

- ~~means for~~ estimating (50) a bit rate value for at least one initialization packet received by the monitoring server ~~(20, 22)~~;
- ~~means for~~ comparing (52) that value to a maximum authorized bit rate value; and
- ~~means for~~ authorizing (40) transmission of the initialization packet only if the bit rate value for that initialization packet does not exceed the maximum authorized bit rate value.

9. (Currently Amended) ~~An installation~~ A system for transmitting multimedia stream exchange session initialization messages, including a network ~~(18)~~ including one or more monitoring servers ~~(20, 22)~~ according to claim 8.

10. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 2 of monitoring messages transmitted in packet mode, wherein estimating ~~(50)~~ the bit rate value for the initialization packet received by the monitoring server includes the following steps:

- storing the sizes of the latest initialization packets sent by the sender terminal ~~(10)~~ to the receiver terminal ~~(12)~~ and received by the monitoring server ~~(20, 22)~~ during a predetermined duration; and

- dividing the sum of the sizes of the stored initialization packets by the predetermined duration.

11. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 2 of monitoring messages transmitted in packet mode, implemented by the monitoring server ~~(20, 22)~~, which also processes session initialization packets.

12. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 3 of monitoring messages transmitted in packet mode, implemented by the monitoring server ~~(20, 22)~~, which also processes session initialization packets.

13. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 2 of monitoring messages transmitted in packet mode, wherein the session initialization messages transmitted use the Session Initialization Protocol (SIP).

14. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 3 of monitoring messages transmitted in packet mode, wherein the session initialization messages transmitted use the Session Initialization Protocol (SIP).

15. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 4 of monitoring messages transmitted in packet mode, wherein the session initialization messages transmitted use the Session Initialization Protocol (SIP).

16. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 5 of monitoring messages transmitted in packet mode, wherein the session initialization messages transmitted use the Session Initialization Protocol (SIP).

17. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 6 of monitoring messages transmitted in packet mode, wherein the session initialization messages transmitted use the Session Initialization Protocol (SIP).